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SIR,

The Inhabitants of the Talbot Settlement, or Southern Division of the County of Middlesex, have been agitating for many years to form a new County from the South Division of Middlesex. During the last Parliament in 1847, they presented a petition, with the signatures of about three thousand of the Inhabitants, praying for a division of the County, and are now doing so by Petition. The Inhabitants of the North Division have admitted, during late years, that a division would and should take place, but were at variance amongst themselves as to the period when it should take place, and *where the dividing line should be.*

Last February some of the influential Inhabitants of the north part of the County and London held a meeting at the Town of London, at which the Warden of the County was Chairman, and James Daniels, Esq., Secretary. The Mayor of the Town, several of the merchants, professional gentlemen of London, Councillors of the adjoining Townships, and others, were present. The large room was crowded. *The division of the County, and what should be the dividing line, were fully discussed* and ultimately decided on, for judicial or electoral purposes, as running from east to west, by an amended resolution moved by Adam Hope, Esq. of London, detailing the line, expressing that the dividing line should be some distance south of the River Thames, *because he did not expect any territory from the Huron District.* I read the line to the Secretary as pointed out by Mr. Hope from the map on the table, and Mr. Daniels inserted the same in the resolution, which amended resolution of Mr. Hope's

was agreed on and approved of by every person present from the north part of the County and London, and so carried by the meeting: only one gentleman in the meeting being in favour of a line from north to south.

The same question was the very same week discussed by the Municipal Council of the London District, in Session assembled. And the same line was then and there approved of, and by a resolution of that representative body *unanimously adopted.* Every Township was fully represented, the full number of Councillors and Warden being present; and there was not one solitary dissenting voice amongst them. That same line has been inserted into the Bill for the division of the London District (by forming the new County of Elgin with St. Thomas for the County Town), now before the House of Assembly, and introduced by William Notman, Esq., the Representative of the County.

The above statement might justify me to solicit you to support the Bill; but to show further that the proposed division is fair and just, and that it does not in any manner interfere with or affect adjoining Counties,—and that the two Counties, that is, the old one and the new one will each have sufficient resources to sustain themselves,—I annex the following statistical information showing what the population, valuation of property, and local taxes are at present for the London District, or County of Middlesex, exclusive of the Town of London, namely:—

Population 40,872, Valuation of Property £547,792, Local Taxes £8,566, and which, by the dividing line agreed on, will be apportioned as follows:—

TO MIDDLESEX OR THE NORTH DIVISION.				TO ELGIN OR THE SOUTH DIVISION.			
	Population.	Valuation of Property.	District Taxes.		Population.	Valuation of Property.	District Taxes.
		£	£			£	£
Moss	1499	17798	349	Aldborough	994	12984	188
London	3286	69172	1167	Dunwich	1778	18508	294
Eckfrid	1229	12855	213	Southwold	2963	36456	806
Caradoc	1715	20167	319	Yarmouth	4853	86149	1276
Lobo	1928	24347	343	Malahide	3250	44439	663
Adelaide	1514	15146	215	Bayham	3338	44243	706
Metcalfe	820	8248	141	Westminster } one-third,	2788	34737	553
Williams	1140	13006	231	Delaware			
Westminster } two-thirds,	5376	69473	1107	Dorchester	20159	£297521	£4481
Dorchester							
Delaware							
	20713	£250211	£4085				

On comparing the above population with the Census of 1836, which you will find at page 12 in the Registration and Statistic Table, just published for 1849, you will there notice that, in 1836, the London District comprehended four Counties with a population of 47,095, namely:—

Middlesex	23790
Norfolk	7742
Oxford	12067
Huron	2956

And in the same book, page 13, it will be shown that *Middlesex alone had at the last Census, 1848, only 548 inhabitants less than the whole District with its four Counties had in 1836,* and that Middlesex even then, in 1836, had more than the half of the four Counties, and had more Inhabitants than the other three Counties by one thousand and twenty-five Inhabitants. Nevertheless, in 1836, or the following year, each of these Counties was set apart as a separate District, with a population very different from the proposed County of Elgin. And it will also be found, by a reference to the local taxes raised by the three last-named Counties or Districts, at the time that they were separated, that their local taxes were not

only less than one-fourth of the present local tax for the London District; but also less than one-half of the local taxes now raised in the proposed County of Elgin.

By a reference to the *Statement of Public Accounts* for 1848, just published, and in Schedule 36, the last page in the book, it will be noticed that the District Tax in the Twenty Districts in Upper Canada averages to each £4,390; while it has been shewn above, that the District Tax for the proposed County of Elgin is £4,481; and the latter not only exceeds the average, but it exceeds the revenue of many of the Districts: for instance, it is *twice as large* as the District Revenue for the Huron, the Ottawa, or the Victoria; it is *one-third larger* than the Bathurst, Colborne, Dalhousie, Prince Edward, or Talbot; it is *one-fourth larger* than the Eastern or the Simcoe; and about the same amount as the Brock, the Johnstown, the Newcastle, and the Western Districts, and which latter you will please to bear in mind is now under the operation, by law, of forming the new District of Kent.

It will, from the above, be noticed that *only six Districts* in the Province have a local revenue exceeding the revenue of the proposed new County or District of

1849
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Elgin. And the population of the proposed County of Elgin will be greater than the population of twenty-four Counties out of the thirty Counties and four Ridings in Upper Canada.

The reasons why the proposed County of Elgin should be set apart at once for general purposes, are, that the population exceeds twenty thousand—the inhabitants have already expressed their desire to be set apart—they will cheerfully tax themselves or apply part of their present large local tax to erect the required public buildings—the Municipal Councillors that represent the Townships, not only in the proposed new County but also in the old County, have agreed on a line of division for Judicial or Electoral purposes, at a full meeting of their body, and by a unanimous vote—the inhabitants of the North and London have also, at a meeting, expressed their opinion of a similar line for the same purpose—the resources of the proposed County fully justify it—the proposed division is fair and just, leaving to the North division or Middlesex (besides the public buildings in London) the largest portion of territory—an equal amount of population and assessed taxes—the one division has the Plank or graded Road passing through it from East to West, and the other has the great Talbot Road passing through it, also from East to West; and the resources of each division are rapidly increasing.

By the division of a large County like Middlesex into two Counties at once and for general purposes, a new impulse, as in all new Counties, is given to the inhabitants of such new County—a fresh spirit of enterprise is spread over the community, tending materially to promote improvements by a more vigorous application of the resources of the country—attracting the attention of emigrants—creating wealth, prosperity, and comfort.

In the proposed new County the inhabitants are prepared to pay their full share of the liabilities of the District of London; they will leave to the old County a new Gaol erected a few years ago; and a Court House, altered and

improved—all at a cost little, if at all, short of £10,000. The Revenue Fund of the Province will not be affected, by the formation of a new County, to any great extent; and when it is considered that the administration of Justice (the chief end of all good government) requires to be extended as the population, wealth, and commerce of the country increases—and as the Consolidated Fund of the Province is not stationary, but rather increases, just in consequence of that increased population, wealth, and commerce—it is both fair, just and reasonable, that the additional portion required from the Consolidated Fund, to measure out justice to criminals, should not be a matter of too much complaint. I might allude to many of the advantages to be derived by the formation of a new County, but as they will naturally present themselves to every candid enquirer, it is not necessary to lengthen this letter by recapitulating them.

In conclusion, I beg respectfully to state, that I have visited Montreal at the request of the inhabitant of the proposed County of Elgin, to state their view; to the Member for the County of Middlesex; and since reaching Montreal I have received a communication from William Niles, Esquire, the Warden of the London District, requesting me to present his views on the division to the Member for the County, or to any other Member of the Legislature—and which are in harmony with the views I have expressed in this letter.

I sincerely trust that you will deem it a pleasure as well as a duty to support the Bill now before the Legislature, and to assist in the formation of the new COUNTY OF ELGIN, which will so materially promote the interest as well as the general welfare of the Talbot Settlement.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient and very humble Servant,

JOHN M'KAY.

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H. M. de Robert D. Baldwin

